

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07452 212054Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
IO-13 PA-01 PRS-01 /116 W
-----023741 220505Z /20

R 211130Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2966

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7452

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: HGEN, ENRG, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S OIL STRIKE VASTLY EXAGGERATED

REF: ISLAMABAD 7360

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO MADE FRONT PAGE NEWS IN BOTH THE URDU AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO WITH A SENSATIONAL CLAIM OF A MAJOR OIL STRIKE AT PIR KOH, TRIBAL TERRITORY NEAR THE PUNJAB BORDER, IN BALUCHISTAN. ACCORDING TO THE PPP URDU NEWSPAPER ON JULY 18, HE SAID THAT "ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TO EXTRACT OIL IN AUGUST, WHEN PAKISTAN WILL GET SUCH A LARGE RESERVIR OF OIL AND GAS THAT ITS DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE ELIMINATED". HE INDICATED THAT THIS FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT WAS DUE TO HIS PERSONAL EFFORTS IN GOING TO THE SPOT AND DIRECTING DRILLING AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE MADE THIS NEWS PUBLIC AT SOME OCCASION IN AUGUST- (PRESUMABLY INDEPENDANCE DAY, AUGUST 14).

2. THIS STROY WAS EMBELLISHED IN THE NEXT DAY'S PAKISTAN TIMES BY THE ALLEGATION THAT AMOCO HAD EARLIER ABANDONED A TEST WELL THERE AT A DEPTH OF 12,000 FEET. ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT AMOCO'S
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LEASE WAS THEN CANELLED UNDER SUSPICION "THAT CERTAIN INTERESTED POWERS DID NOT FAVOR THE IDEA OF PAKISTAN BECOMING SELF-SUFFICIENT IN OIL." AN AMOCO DRILLING CO. OFFICIAL DENIED TO THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT IT HAD ANY LEASES CANCELLED AND ADDED THAT AMOCO HAD NEVER DRILLED AROUND PIR KOH. IT HAD DRILLED SOME DRY HOLES ELSEWHERE IN BALUCHISTAN AND HAD ABANDONED A LEASE WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES. THE NEXT DAY,

THE PAKISTAN TIMES PUBLISHED WHAT MOUNTED TO A RETRACTION
BY THE GOP.

3. ALTHOUGH GOP AUTHORITIES ARE BEHAVING WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT
OF RESERVE ABOUT THE BHUTTO CLAIM, THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS,
TOGETHER WITH WHAT THE ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR PICKED UP
PRIVATELY FROM AN ATTOCK OIL COMPANY OFFICIAL, INDICATE THAT
DRILLING IS GOING ON AT PGR KOH AND THAT PERHAPS THE CORE
SAMPLES ARE HOPEFUL. CERTAINLY, HOWEVER, NO WELL HAS BEEN BROUGHT
IN. PRESUMABLY, BHUTTO WANTED TO KEEP HIS NAME ALIVE IN THE
PRESS WITH A FLASHY BIT OF SENSATIONALISM THAT STRETCHED THE
FACTS CONSIDERABLY.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, ALLEGATIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: BHUTTO'S OIL STRIKE VASTLY EXAGGERATED
TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, PK
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